



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Chief Justice Mulligan Receives Top Award from National Court Organization**

**Williamsburg, VA (Feb. 28, 2008)** – The Honorable Robert A. Mulligan, Chief Justice for Administration and Management of the Massachusetts Trial Court, is the recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Service Award for a state-level court administrator, one of the highest awards presented by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to a person who has made longstanding contributions to improving the justice system and who has supported the mission of the National Center.

Chief Justice Mulligan was recognized for his “impressive abilities not only as a jurist, but as an innovative court manager,” said NCSC President Mary C. McQueen. “As a result of his considerable skills and leadership ability, Chief Justice Mulligan successfully addressed the challenges raised by the Monan Report on Management in the Courts. He has worked with the National Center to develop a workload model to identify the resource needs of the courts and to adapt and implement CourTools,” McQueen said. CourTools is a set of 10 court performance measures developed by the NCSC.

Massachusetts Chief Justice Margaret Marshall said “there is no one more deserving” of the award than Chief Justice Mulligan. “He is a proven leader who commands extraordinary respect. As Chief Justice for Administration and Management of the Massachusetts Trial Court for the past five years, Chief Justice Mulligan has steered the Trial Court toward lasting management reform and institutional change. Through the use of CourTool measurements, time standards in every court department, staffing models, information technology upgrades, and judicial performance evaluations, Chief Justice Mulligan has been wholly committed to making judicial administration in Massachusetts a model of excellence in management and accountability,” Chief Justice Marshall said.

Chief Justice Mulligan has an established record of dedication to the justice system and has worked diligently to improve the public's confidence in the courts. Prior to his current position, Chief Justice Mulligan served as Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Boston, as Associate Justice of the Superior Court, a judge for Boston Municipal Court, as Assistant Attorney General and Assistant U.S. Attorney, and as Chair of the Massachusetts Sentencing Commission.

The National Center for State Courts, founded in 1971 by Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger, is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice and provides leadership, research, technology, education and training to the state courts. The National Center also is taking the lead on several key issues facing the justice system. For example, The National Center is working to improve public trust and confidence in the courts, reform the judicial selection process, develop a model policy on public access to court records, and to improve pro se litigation. The National Center is headquartered in Williamsburg, Va., and has offices in Washington, D.C. and Denver, Colo.

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